

**Homily: Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

**Gospel: [Luke 6:31-36](#)**

**Date: Luke 8:5-15**

**Preacher: Father John Holoduek, OCA**

*...Having heard the word with a noble and good heart, keep it and bear fruit with patience.*

So, what Spiritual Power can go along with the Patience of Living with the Seed Falling on Good Soil?

Did you know that forgiveness works miracles?

In 1890, envious clerics in the Patriarchate of Alexandria, driven by jealousy, made slanderous accusations against Saint Nektarios, the Metropolitan of Pentapolis. These false allegations led to his suspension from his ecclesial and administrative duties, forcing him into a life of exile from the Church of Alexandria. The accusations followed him to Greece, where he served as Dean of the Rizarios Ecclesiastical School and later founded a female monastery in Aegina, where he is buried. **The stories of His Life will show the Development of the Seed on Good Soil.**

He forgave everyone and everything, much like Christ on the Cross. As he wrote in one of his letters to Patriarch Sophronios of Alexandria, "Since it is required that we first forgive the sins of others, I have already forgiven all, and pray for those who sinned against me." After being hospitalized with cancer, he fell asleep in the Lord and then the hospital was filled with a beautiful fragrance, and miracles began.

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Even when St. Nektarios was admitted to the Hospital, he looked like a Poor Monk...the Hospital's Nurses couldn't believe that He was an Archbishop Metropolitan, not until the Sisters from Aegina came to prepare His Body for the Funeral.

His First Miracle was immediately upon his death. When a nurse and a nun was cleaning his body and clothing him with a clean Cassock, they placed his sweater on the patient's bed, next to him. And, the paralyzed man, there, was immediately healed!

To this day, according to people's faith and God's will, people often hear knocking and other sounds when they place their ear on the Saint's tomb. Even unbelievers have come to the true faith after experiencing such noises. Saint Nektarios is active beyond the grave.

In 1988, more than a century after he was exiled, the Holy Synod of Alexandria and All Africa issued a decision to "restore the ecclesiastical order of the Saint of our Century, Saint Nektarios" and ask the Saint for forgiveness from "both us, unworthy as we are, and our predecessors, our brothers of the Throne of Alexandria, for opposition to the Saint and for all which [he] suffered."

Saint Nektarios understood the power of forgiveness. He can help us forgive from the heart so that the greatest miracle can occur—our union with Christ.

With all the sins used against St. Nektarios, He Forgave! He Forgave everyone! This is the Patience of a Saint whose Seed Fell on Good Soil.

**Our Challenge:** Try to develop this **Patience**...Develop Your Seed which fell on Good Soil. As we grow in Spiritual Life, we must take each opportunity to grow.

**St. Nektarios' Feastday is 9 November.** Read the **Lives of the Saints**, even if smaller passages from the *Synaxarion*; these will have a great affect on your heart!

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